

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee.

My Name is Jerry Simpson, a lifelong resident of Fergus County. Due to an accident and subsequent surgery I am not able to attend this hearing in person. Please accept this as my testimony

I would like to state that I am in full support of HB558. The reasons are quite simple. In 2011, certain county roads in Fergus County were upgraded to Missile Roads, with Western Federal Lands Highway Division as the designer/engineer. During this upgrade, the chemical calcium chloride was applied and worked into the road bed to "provide long term stability to the roads". The resulting road surface was, and still is, a long way from meeting that goal.

According to documentation that I received from Western Federal, the "targeted rate was 2.5%". After a community uproar, they adjusted the application rate down, we were told in half, which would make it about 1.25%. I can tell you that there was no noticeable difference in the road, or the muck grime that it continued to produce, after the application rate was decreased. We were told this was because of the weather. I am a lifelong farmer, and that is the standard answer given when a chemical fails to work. Now it is a year and half latter, and the product still has not cured.

I requested a Material Safety Data Sheet for the product, and a copy of the EIS for this project. I was told that I would have to go through the Freedom of Information Act for this information and would have to pay for it. Thanks to Senator Jon Tester, I didn't have to go that route. What we learned from this is that an EIS was not done, but instead a CE, that stated that the project would not go over any waters and the road would not be changed, was issued. A complaint was filed with the DEQ because of this project, and again nothing was done. The

use of calcium chloride was finally stopped when a Moore Public Schools bus had break failure due to the excessive buildup of the muck that these roads were producing.

While the project may have been well intended, the results have been less than positive. The attitude of the Federal authorities was beyond belief. They continued to apply this product even though they could see the wreck that was happening. Many tons of this muck were hauled off by unsuspecting motorists, farmers, and even the military. It was deposited in various parking lots, farm fields, city streets, and farm yards throughout Central Montana. It has wreaked havoc on vehicles, farm equipment, and I'm sure the environment as this stuff was in flowing water ways. It is for these reasons that I fully support and commend Representative Lenz for bringing HB 558 to the Legislature. If I can answer any questions, please feel free to contact me at 406-374-2280.

Thank you for your time.

Jerry Simpson

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